

Message Text

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IBADAN 879 DTD NOV 26 BEING REPEATED QUOTE:

C O N F I D E N T I A L IBADAN 0879

FOR AMBASSADOR EASUM FROM HOYT

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PROP, RH, SF
SUBJ: VOA BROADCASTS ON SOUTHERN AFRICAN ITEMS

1. AS YOU MAY RECALL, WHEN YOU WERE HERE LAST WEEK I MENTIONED TO YOU MY CONCERN OVER VOA BROADCASTS TO AFRICA WHICH I THOUGHT WERE IN EFFECT SERVING AS BROADCASTERS OF THE VIEWS AND PROPAGANDA OF THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN WHITE REGIMES. I SAID THAT BY ITS HEAVY COVERAGE OF STATEMENTS AND VIEWPOINTS ISSUED BY THOSE GOVERNMENTS, WHICH OTHERWISE WOULD NOT RECEIVE SUCH GOOD WORLD-WIDE DISSEMINATION, THE USG WAS IN A CERTAIN SENSE ASSOCIATING ITSELF WITH THOSE VIEWS. AS AN EXAMPLE, I CITED THE HEAVY COVERAGE GIVEN TO THEIR GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO THE TRANSKEI. ALTHOUGH VOA GAVE THE US POSITION TAKEN ON THE EVE OF INDEPENDENCE, NEWS AND COMMENTS WERE MAINLY DEVOTED TO EXPLAINING THE SOUTH AFRICAN RATIONALE FOR THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE.

2. OTHER EXAMPLES I HEARD TODAY ON THE AFRICAN SAFARI NEWS AND COMMENTS. IN THE FIRST INSTANCE, THE NEWS ANNOUNCED THAT
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RHODESIAN FORCES HAD HIT TARGETS INSIDE MOZAMBIQUE, "MAINLY AT THE GUERRILLA FORCES". THE SOURCE OF THAT STORY MUST HAVE BEEN THE RHODESIAN OR SOUTH AFRICAN NEWS, AND MAKES A JUDGEMENT ON WHAT THE RHODESIAN FORCES DID. LATER ON, THERE WAS A STORY ON CROSS-BORDER OPERATIONS BY RHODESIAN FORCES WHICH GAVE FIRST THE RHODESIAN SIDE THE OPERATION WAS PURELY AT MILITARY TARGETS,

THE MOZAMBIQUE REPLY THAT IT WAS NOT, AND ENDED WITH THE RHODESIAN'S SHOWING MILITARY EQUIPMENT CAPTURED IN THE RAID.

3. THE SECOND INSTANCE IS MORE SERIOUS. THIS WAS A COMMENT/STORY QUOTING A RHODESIAN OFFICIAL NAMED SMITH WHO GAVE THE REGIME'S RUNDOWN ON WHY MAJORITY RULE COULD NOT COME FOR AT LEAST 23 MONTHS AND PROBABLY 25 MONTHS. IT WAS AN ELABORATE AND DETAILED LISTING OF ALL THE LAWS AND SURVEYS AND CUSTOMS WHICH WOULD HAVE TO BE CHANGED BEFORE EVERYONE COULD BE REGISTERED AND EVENTUALLY VOTE. ALL PATENT NONSENSE. THE REPORT WENT ON TO SAY THAT AN OFFICIAL RHODESIAN REGIME WHITE-PAPER OR POSITION HAD NOT RPT NOT BEEN PRESENTED TO THE CONFERENCE IN GENEVA ON THIS SUBJECT. THE QUESTION IS, WHY SHOULD VOA BROADCAST IT, IN EFFECT PRESENTING TO THE WORLD AND THE CONFERENCE, THIS RHODESIAN NEGOTIATING POSITION? I PRESUME THIS ALSO RUNS CONTRARY TO THE USG POSITION.

4. I BRING THIS TO YOUR ATTENTION FOR WHATEVER USE IT MAY BE TO YOU. HOYT UNQUOTE.
EASUM

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